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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR/Germany	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. Soviet Tanker BATUMI 2. Shipping in Far East	DATE DISTR.	4 October 1954
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. The Soviet motor tanker BATUMI, registered at Tuapse, was berthed in Hamburg from 17 to 29 April 1954 unloading a cargo of 8,500 tons of soybeans from Dairen for East Germany. Because of the inconvenient arrangement of the ship's tank holds, the unloading, which was accomplished by use of elevators, required more time than usual. The BATUMI was the second Soviet tanker which had put into Hamburg since the beginning of the year with soybeans from Dairen, the SOVETSKAYA NEFT having been in port from 30 March to 8 April with a similar cargo. 25X1
2. The commanding officer of the BATUMI was Captain Vyacheslav Vavulin. [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] Vavulin allegedly received the highest salary a shipmaster could earn in the USSR, namely, 4,700 rubles per month. Each crew member received 50 westmarks for the period the ship lay in Hamburg. The Soviet sailors were well dressed, the majority in suits bought in China. 25X1
3. [redacted] the number of Soviet tankers trading between Vladivostok and Chinese ports had recently increased considerably. Oil from Sakhalin and Kamchatka, where gasoline was also produced, was shipped via Vladivostok. [redacted] ships up to 2,000 GRT could be built in Vladivostok. There were, however, no large Soviet shipyards in the Far East and the transfer of new ships from Europe to the East would continue. The only yards at which large merchant vessels could be built were at the Black Sea ports of Odessa, Nikolayev, and Novorossiysk. [redacted] the tanker MAYKOP was built at Odessa in 1953. 25X1

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11

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